

**To:** Koglin, Eric[Koglin.Eric@epa.gov]  
**From:** Silvestri, Erin  
**Sent:** Thur 8/20/2015 6:41:32 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: Lake Powell Branch Update Wednesday August 19th  
[EPA Region 9 Sample Locations San Juan River and Lake Powell 2.pdf](#)  
[Lake Powell Update Wednesday August 19.doc](#)  
[Lake Powell Update Wednesday August 19.pdf](#)

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**From:** Goldbloom-Helzner, David on behalf of EOC Water  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 13:11  
**To:** EOC ORD  
**Subject:** Fw: Lake Powell Branch Update Wednesday August 19th

ORD,

See attached, has some valuable information. Wanted to include you as well.

David

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**From:** Fencil, Jeffrey on behalf of EOC Water  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 12:14 PM  
**To:** EOC Environmental Unit; EOC ATSDR  
**Subject:** Fw: Lake Powell Branch Update Wednesday August 19th

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**From:** Pickard, Brian  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 20, 2015 12:09 PM  
**To:** EOC Water  
**Cc:** Pickard, Brian  
**Subject:** FW: Lake Powell Branch Update Wednesday August 19th

David – See below and attachments - I got this in my personal email from R9.

-Brian

Hi Brian –

There are some details here which may be of interest for the OW Report.

Mike

Michael Montgomery

Acting Director - Water Division (July 6th, 2015 – September 4th, 2015)

US EPA Region 9

415-972-3438

**From:** Fencil, Jeffrey **On Behalf Of** EOC Water

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2015 5:21 PM

**To:** Best-Wong, Benita; Workman, Rosemary; Travers, David; Tingley, Kevin; Tidwell-Shelton, Patricia; Southerland, Elizabeth; Shapiro, Mike; Sawyers, Andrew; Pickard, Brian; Newberry, Debbie; Lopez-Carbo, Maria; Lape, Jeff; Grevatt, Peter; Frace, Sheila; Evans, David; Clark, Becki; Bissonette, Eric; Gilinsky, Ellen; Kopocis, Ken

**Cc:** EOC Water; Goldbloom-Helzner, David

**Subject:** OW Management Report for Gold King Mine Release and Typhoon Souledar - August 19, 2015

## **OW Management Report**

### **Gold King Mine Release and Typhoons Soudelor/Goni**

**August 19, 2015**

#### **Gold King Mine Release**

#### **Background:**

On August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, an EPA cleanup team triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. The EPA is working closely

with responders and local, state and tribal officials to monitor water contaminated by the release. The release's path flows through three of the EPA's regions - Region 8 (Colorado, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe); Region 6 (New Mexico), and Region 9 (Navajo Nation). EPA has activated its Emergency Operations System to ensure coordination among its regions, laboratories and national program offices in Washington, D.C. The EPA has also set up an incident command center in Durango, CO. The EPA is coordinating with officials in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Southern Ute Tribe and Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

### **Response Coordination:**

The EPA HQ EOC is now fully activated. Shifts will be 9:30 AM – 7 PM, Seven days a week. David Goldbloom-Helzner will staff the desk August 20, and Brian Pickard will staff the desk August 21.

On August 14, 2015, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) lifted the ban on the use of private domestic water wells. NMED also issued advisories to flush irrigation ditches as a safety precaution prior to resuming irrigation for agriculture and livestock.

On August 15, 2015, New Mexico lifted the ban on using the Animas and San Juan Rivers to supply the San Juan County's drinking water systems. Until the New Mexico Game and Fish can determine the level of contamination in fish, it strongly recommends that anglers do not eat the fish they catch.

In an August 14, 2015 press release from the City of Durango, Colorado, the City resumed pumping raw water for drinking water treatment and distribution after independent sampling results supported such a decision. The City has also lifted the outdoor irrigation restrictions.

### **EPA Activities:**

#### **Region 8:**

The EPA and CDPHE have been taking daily surface water samples from the Animas River and Cement Creek. Animas River sediment sampling has also occurred. CDPHE has sampled raw and finished public drinking water supply systems. The results of the sampling analysis are being distributed as appropriate. The EPA has also completed irrigation ditch assessment and ditches were flushed and monitored prior to opening for irrigation use.

On 8/17/2015 CDPHE took their last sample of raw and finished water samples from public water supply systems in the impacted area. Public water systems will continue sampling according to their regular sample plans established by CDPHE. The CDPHE plans to demobilize on 8/19/2015 and will return to the normally scheduled watershed sampling in the area.

The EPA is also conducting private well water sampling as needed and calling those residents sampled to provide the analytical results. Based on the sample results reported as of 8/17/2015, seven out of 105 private wells sampled had some exceedance of drinking water standards. These samples were taken from the well head and not the tap. It is unclear if the exceedances were caused by the mine release. Follow up work at the wells that exceeding drinking water standards include: flushing the well; resampling at the well; and taking an additional tap water sample for analysis.

Non-Potable water distribution as of 8/17/2015: there was one delivery of 500 gallons non-potable water.

Potable water deliveries were made to two locations for a total of 46,800 gallons.

#### Region 6:

NMED informed EPA that the Town of Morningstar's reserve had dropped drastically and the Town only had an estimated 48 hours of available supply, as of August 14, 2015. EPA acted quickly to mobilize a temporary pump to facilitate an emergency connection between Farmington and Morningstar. To date EPA continues to provide on-site assistance to Morningstar. When the water was being pumped from Farmington to the Morningstar tank the evening of August 18, 2015, a slip joint had to be fixed. When the line pressure reached 110 psi, there was a blow out that occurred under Wildflower Road. No one was injured, the operator crew scrambled to stop traffic, close the street, and secure the area. The morning of the 19th, the crew will place a mega-clamp on the line and restart the pump. The hope is that the current system's infrastructure will hold so that the pressure can reach 110-140 psi in order to fill the Morningstar tank. The operators will sample and disinfect the line per their normal operating procedures for fixing line breaks.

On August 15, 2015, EPA began transporting and offloading raw water into Morningstar's pretreatment settling ponds. Seven trucks were dedicated to delivering raw water to Morningstar. It is not expected to significantly reduce the need for additional water supply. Morningstar was very appreciative of EPA's quick response and assistance.

Morningstar is operating on slow flow capacity due to the turbidity generated in the setline ponds when the water tankers first filled the ponds. As of the evening of August 18, 2015, the ponds were clearing out, in addition, the operators are having to backwash more than normal to keep sediment out of the filters. EPA is coordinating with NMED and the water system about taking special samples or resuming their normal compliance sampling for coliforms in the distribution system to check on the quality of the treated water.

The HQ Environmental Unit (EU) continues to assist with data validation. Daily residential sampling continues. Animas River sediment samples were posted to the incident website on 8/14. No results exceeded recreational screening levels. On August 15, 2015, EPA released additional water quality data from Aug. 7 to Aug. 11, 2015, on the San Juan River between Farmington and Shiprock, New Mexico.

EPA will continue the private well sampling effort on August 19, 2015. Fifteen teams consisting of

NMED, EPA, and EPA Contractors are sampling in order to have additional data while the August 10-16, 2015 sampling data is being validated. EPA is currently drafting a joint state/EPA letter to notify the private well owners about their test results from the State's water fair initiative and EPA's private well sampling when those results are available for reporting.

#### Region 9:

- R9 is conducting surface water sampling and sediment sampling along the San Juan River in the Navajo Nation at 11 monitoring sites
- Surface water and sediment sampling was conducted at Lake Powell on August 15, 2015.
- The Navajo Tribal Utility Authority has initiated sampling of the three wells at Montezuma Creek and at the intake of the Mexican Hat surface water plant.
- EPA (R9) is paying for water hauling services to deliver water to areas served by wells on the NTUA – Montezuma Creek public water system which was shut down as a precaution
- EPA (R9) continues to provide over 50,000 gallons of water per day to designated distribution areas identified by NTUA.
- Water trucks to address Navajo agricultural and livestock needs have been secured

and will be continuing to deliver water to designated locations.

- On 8/14 the State of Utah lifted their advisories for Utah Crop Irrigation and Livestock Watering

- Several agriculture locations rescinded their requests for water after New Mexico lifted the advisory restricting the use of private water wells. It is also anticipated that as the irrigation ditch water levels stabilize, water hauling deliveries will decrease.

- At the request of the City of Page, Arizona, EPA and START contractors sampled the drinking water intake in Lake Powell on August 17.

### Infrastructure Impacts:

Region 6:

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 12, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems:

System Name	Population
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800
Farmington Water System	47000
Lower Valley WUA	8428
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423
Northstar WDWCA	4123
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593
Upper La Plata WUA	2265
Flora Vista	4300
Total Population	80,392

**Sampling Results:** The August 6 and 12, 2015, surface water sampling data from public water supply intakes is now available on the Gold King Mine website: <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-17-2015>

**Typhoon Soudelor/Goni**

### CUC: Water Distribution Recovery Summary:

- 35 wells operable, producing 3.3MGD [32%]
- With addition of AsMatuiz and San Roque villages, intermittent water distribution now serving 35% of population.

### Water Testing:

- BECQ's lab is still operating at half capacity (30/samples per day).
- Results from yesterday's samples:
  - o No harmful bacteria were detected.
- Water Task Force continued to collect coliform samples today according to sampling plan.

### Emergency Water Distribution:

- CUC continues to operate 5 water distribution stations from 12pm-7pm daily.
- Coral Ocean Point resort continues to operate their drinking water distribution point from 2:30-5:30pm.
- USMC drinking water treatment and distribution operation to continue through Saturday (8/22) at the request of the CNMI government.

### Bottled water:

- Meeting held with 8 of 14 bottled water companies, Water Task Force determined needs for recovering operations. Details to follow.
- Unchanged bottled water status:
  - o 5 companies are operational and producing 60,350 gallons of potable water/day
  - o 9 companies are not operational but can produce ~25,000 gallons/day, once water and power are restored.

### Mass Care:

- 4 Shelters open: Aging Center, Kagman Community Center, Tanapag Headstart, Marianas High School. EOC continues to coordinate water delivery to shelters.

### Wastewater:

- Sadag Tasi WWTP is operational, however generator must be fueled 3x/day and

cannot be run dry without causing restart problems.

- Due to 5-hr runtime per tank, Generator is shut off at night.

- CUC is exploring possibility of obtaining an alternate generator or a supplemental fuel tank.